

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EA-11 AID-20 IO-14 INR-10 RSC-01

(ISO) R

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R 022123Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143029

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EATD, ETRD, JA, XA

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CANADIAN AID TO LIBERATION GROUPS

REFERENCE: TOKYO 8095

1.ANY ASSESSMENT OF A FLUID SITUATION SUCH AS THAT IN
PORTUGAL'S SOUTHERN AFRICAN TERRITORIES MUST BE HIGHLY
TENTATIVE AND OPEN TO REVISION AS EVENTS DEVELOP. WITH
THIS CAVEAT IN MIND IT SEEMS IMPROBABLE THAT A UDI WILL
OCCUR IN ANGOLA OR MOZAMBIQUE. FOR A UDI TO HAPPEN IT
WOULD REQUIRE EITHER ACTIVE SUPPORT BY THE PORTUGUESE
MILITARY OR INTERVENTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY.
PRESENTLY BOTH OF THESE POSSIBILITIES ARE REMOTE. THE
PORTUGUESE MILITARY IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, WITH AN
OFFICER CORPS COMPOSED MOSTLY OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT
PERSONNEL (GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP) ARE LOYAL TO THE
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PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE GENERAL IDEA OF DECOLONI-

ZATION. IN WEIGHING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERVENTION, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITS OWN DELICATE RACIAL BALANCE AS WELL AS ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY. IT SEEMS AT THIS TIME THEY WOULD BE UNWILLING TO AND INCAPABLE OF REPLACING PORTUGUESE MILITARY EFFORTS AND SUPPORTING A UDI.

2. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVED ITS FIRST GRANTS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN GROUPS "OPPOSED TO THE WHITE-SUPREMACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" IN FEBRUARY, 1974. THE GRANTS WERE MADE BY THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY THROUGH INTERMEDIARY NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, OXFAM, WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA AND OTHERS. THE GOC WAS CAREFUL TO EXPLAIN THE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FOR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IN EDUCATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AND HEALTH FIELDS. PREVIOUSLY CANADA HAD CONTRIBUTED TO UN AGENCIES WHICH INDIRECTLY AIDED SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES AND HAD INCREASED ITS GENERAL GRANTS TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

3. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE IN RESPONDING TO TOKYO'S INCREASED INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. FYI: WE HAVE HAD CONTACTS WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY, MR. MINORU KUBOTA, OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING ON AFRICAN MATTERS FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE SIMPLER IN THE FUTURE IF THE JAPANESE WERE TO DIRECT THEIR INQUIRIES ON AFRICA THROUGH MR. KUBOTA HERE IN WASHINGTON. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLONIALISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN TRADE, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE143029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/RA:RAROTH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0203
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740780/aaaacqgl.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 8095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECULATION ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CANADIAN AID TO LIBERATION GROUPS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ETRD, JA, XA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005